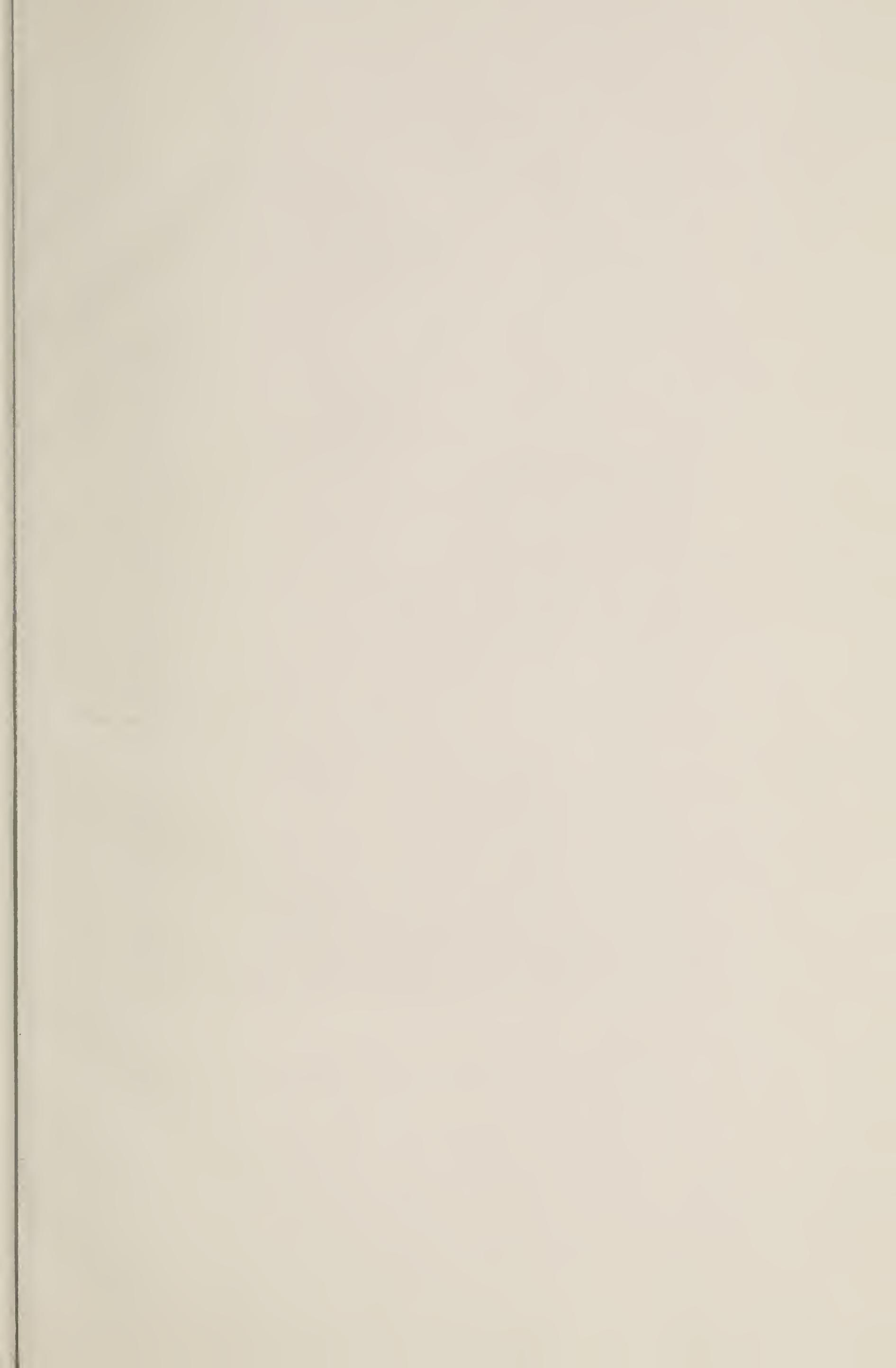


THE
ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM, INCORPORATED
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
1955







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Isabella Stewart Gardner

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

INCORPORATED

Annual Report

for the year 1955



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1956



THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM, INCORPORATED

Sole Trustee under the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner



FRANCIS LEE HIGGINSON, *President*

GEORGE PEABODY GARDNER, *Vice-President*

JEROME D. GREENE, *Secretary and Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

FRANCIS LEE HIGGINSON

ARTHUR POPE

THOMAS JEFFERSON COOLIDGE

RICHARD C. PAINE

JEROME DAVIS GREENE

GEORGE PEABODY GARDNER

JAMES LAWRENCE, JR.

STAFF*

Director Emeritus

MORRIS CARTER

ADMINISTRATION

Director

GEORGE L. STOUT

Assistant Director

WILLIAM N. MASON

Secretaries

EVELYN BURR

Photographer

JANE M. PORTER

JOSEPH B. PRATT

COLLECTION

Conservator

ALFRED J. JAKSTAS

Technician for Textiles

VINCENZINA ROMANO

Technician

SHEILA M. MCKENNEY

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

Superintendent

WILLIAM J. IRELAND

Assistant Superintendent

PATRICK T. NILAND

Technicians

HERBERT A. BERRY

BARNEY BIRMINGHAM

MARY CAMPBELL

PETER CONNORS

PATRICK J. CREMIN

MICHAEL FINNERTY

MONTÉ R. FLAGG

JOHN J. KENNEDY

WALTER E. LESLIE

DENNIS W. MAHONEY

DELIA F. MULLEN

Guards

JAMES BLAKE

BASIL R. DEERING

JOSEPH FEELEY

HENRY F. FORD

JOHN HAHN

FAY B. JOHNSON

FRANCIS LEON

HENRY A. MOONEY

CHARLES H. MORSE

ARTHUR H. NICKERSON

ATTILIO PETINGI

CHARLES H. REYNOLDS

PERCY C. SMITH

GARDENING

Head Gardener at Greenhouse

JOHN F. SULLIVAN

Head Gardener at Museum

JOHN A. MADDEN

Gardeners

MICHAEL COGAVIN

PATRICK J. FLYNN

MICHAEL HEAVEY

VICTOR PALLADINO

* December, 1955.

NOTE

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, December 19, 1900, Mrs. Gardner's sole beneficial ownership of the works of art held by this corporation being represented by stock. (*For the Certificate of Incorporation see p. 6 and for a copy of an Act of 1925 authorizing the corporation to hold additional real and personal estate, see p. 7.*)

The Will and Codicil of Isabella Stewart Gardner probated August 21, 1924, gave to Trustees all her land in Boston including Fenway Court and the land adjacent thereto, and her works of art, or her interest therein as represented by stock of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated. (*For the relevant provisions of the Will and Codicil see p. 8.*)

On November 23, 1936, the Trustees then surviving executed an Agreement of Association with the intention of forming a corporation under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth (*see p. 11*). A certificate of Incorporation was granted on December 23, 1936, as of the date of the said Agreement (*see p. 13*). An Act authorizing the corporation to hold additional real and personal estate was approved March 23, 1937 (*see p. 14*).

The Trustees under the Will having resigned upon the formation of the corporation, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, was on December 24, 1936, appointed by the Probate Court of Suffolk County, sole Trustee of the estate theretofore held in trust by the individual Trustees. (*For the Certificate of the Probate Court, see p. 15.*)

By an Act of the General Court of the Commonwealth approved May 14, 1943, the real estate in Boston of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Inc., was exempted from taxation as from January 1, 1943. (*For the Act see page 16.*)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it known *That whereas* John Chipman Gray, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Henry Walton Swift, Harold Jefferson Coolidge, Charles L. Pierson, Willard Thomas Sears, and William Amory Gardner have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM
IN THE FENWAY, INCORPORATED

for the purpose of art education, especially by the public exhibition of works of art, with a capital of Fifty Thousand Dollars, and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of the Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director of the said Corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations and recorded in this office:

Now, Therefore, I, William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ~~Do~~ **hereby Certify** that said John Chipman Gray, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Henry Walton Swift, Harold Jefferson Coolidge, Charles L. Pierson, Willard Thomas Sears, and William Amory Gardner, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM
IN THE FENWAY, INCORPORATED

with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred.

[Seal]

WM. M. OLIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Acts of 1925 — Chapter 198

An Act to authorize THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM IN THE FENWAY, INCORPORATED, to hold additional real and personal estate and for other purposes.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM IN THE FENWAY, INCORPORATED, a charitable institution organized under the general laws relating to charitable corporations, may hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding eight million dollars, including the amount it is already authorized to hold by section nine of chapter one hundred and eighty of the general laws, which estate shall be devoted to the purposes of said institution, as provided in said section nine, so that through its agency may be carried on the endowed Museum given under the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner for the education and enjoyment of the public forever.

Approved March 30, 1925.

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILL AND CODICIL
OF
ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER

Dated May 9, 1921: Probated August 21, 1924

THIRD: 1. To Harold J. Coolidge, Grafton D. Cushing, William C. Endicott, Francis L. Higginson, Jr., and Arthur F. Johnson, all of Boston, and to said Arthur Pope, and to Henry D. Sleeper of Gloucester, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs of the survivor, I devise all the land which I own in Boston, and especially the land comprising my estate known as Fenway Court, and my land adjacent thereto, situated on the Fenway, the Tremont entrance to the Fenway Park, and Worthington Street, which tract includes the lots conveyed to me by deeds of Augustus P. Loring, dated January 31, 1899, and June 13, 1899, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 2620, *Fol.* 107 and 109; deed of Moses Williams *et al.*, Trustees, dated February 26, 1900, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 2667, *Fol.* 306; deed of Henry M. White, dated January 1, 1901, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 2728, *Fol.* 25; deed of Moses Williams *et al.*, Trustees, dated June 16, 1906, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 3136, *Fol.* 170; deed of Paul and Rachel S. Thorndike, acknowledged March 22, 1907, and recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 3197, *Fol.* 493; deed of Charles Paine, dated November 20, 1911, and recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 3589, *Fol.* 232, and deed of Moses Williams *et al.*, Trustees, dated January 8, 1913, and recorded with Suffolk Deeds, *Lib.* 3700, *Fol.* 631, with the buildings thereon, and I also bequeath to the said Coolidge, Cushing, Endicott, Higginson, Johnson, Pope and Sleeper, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the

representatives of the survivor, all my interest in the pictures, statuary, works of art, bric-a-brac, furniture, books and papers, contained at my death in all the stories of the main building of said Fenway Court other than the fourth story and the attic, and also in or upon the grounds adjoining said building, and all such articles as are above mentioned wherever situated intended or destined to be contained in these stories other than the fourth story and the attic, including all the property in which I own the beneficial interest through my ownership of all the shares of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, all the aforesaid real and personal property to be held by said Coolidge, Cushing, Endicott, Higginson, Johnson, Pope and Sleeper, in trust as a Museum for the education and enjoyment of the public forever, but no works of art shall be placed therein for exhibition other than such as I, or the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, own or have contracted for at my death. And I direct that, if any question arises as to what is intended or destined for said stories other than the fourth story and the attic, the judgment of my Executors or Executor shall be final.

2. Whereas in the foregoing paragraph I have bequeathed all my interest in certain personal property, and whereas the legal title to it or to a portion of it is in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, and whereas it is my intention that all the property of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, shall be and remain in the Museum established under this will, now, therefore, I give and bequeath all my shares in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, to said Coolidge, Cushing, Endicott, Higginson, Johnson, Pope and Sleeper, to be held in trust

for the purposes of the Museum established under this will, I hereby directing the Trustees so to hold and manage said shares that all the property of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, shall be and remain forever in the Museum established under this will subject to all the provisions of this will relating to the Museum so established. And I authorize the said Trustees, as the holders of all the shares of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated, to procure its dissolution, and the transfer and delivery of all its property to them as Trustees to be held in trust for the purposes of the Museum established under this will in accordance with all the provisions of this will relating to said Museum.

3. I also give to the said Coolidge, Cushing, Endicott, Higginson, Johnson, Pope and Sleeper, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the representatives of the survivor, the sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in trust to apply the income of it to maintain the Museum established under this will in accordance with all the provisions of this will.

AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS AND TAXATION

We, whose names are hereto subscribed, do, by this agreement, associate ourselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the provisions of Chapter 180 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.).

The name by which the corporation shall be known is

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED.

The location of the principal office of the corporation to be in Massachusetts is the City of Boston.

The purposes for which the corporation is formed are as follows: —

To conduct the museum established by the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner and otherwise to carry out the charitable purposes contained in said will, and incidentally thereto to act in any manner under said will with all the rights and powers conferred by said will, and to receive and hold real and personal property including all the property now held by the trustees under the will of said Isabella Stewart Gardner, and to administer all such property upon the trusts and in conformity with the provisions of said will.

The amount of its capital stock (if any) is *None* dollars

The par value of its shares is *None* dollars

The number of its shares is *None*

We hereby waive all requirements of the General Laws of Massachusetts for notice of the first meeting for organization, and appoint the 23rd day of November 1936, at one o'clock P.M., at Fenway Court, Boston, Massachusetts, as the time and place for holding said first meeting.

In Witness Whereof we have hereto signed our names
this 23rd day of November in the year nineteen hundred and
thirty-six.

NAME	RESIDENCE (City or town; street and number)
William C. Endicott	59 Ingersoll St., Danvers, Mass.
Francis L. Higginson	Cherry St., Wenham, Mass.
Grafton D. Cushing	45 East 66th St., N. Y. C.
T. Jefferson Coolidge	35 Lapland St., Brookline
Richard C. Paine	325 Heath St., Brookline, Mass.
Olga E. Monks	51 Commonwealth Ave., Boston
Arthur Pope	11 Lowell St., Cambridge, Mass.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it known *That whereas* William C. Endicott (deceased), Francis L. Higginson, Olga E. Monks, T. Jefferson Coolidge, Grafton D. Cushing, Richard C. Paine and Arthur Pope have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED,

for the purpose of the following: —To conduct the museum established by the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner and otherwise to carry out the charitable purposes contained in said will, and incidentally thereto to act in any manner under said will with all the rights and powers conferred by said will, and to receive and hold real and personal property including all the property now held by the trustees under the will of said Isabella Stewart Gardner, and to administer all such property upon the trusts and in conformity with the provisions of said will; and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the Articles of Organization of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation and recorded in this office:

Now, therefore, I, Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, **Do hereby Certify** that said William C. Endicott (deceased), Francis L. Higginson, Olga E. Monks, T. Jefferson Coolidge, Grafton D. Cushing, Richard C. Paine and Arthur Pope, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as, and are hereby made, an existing corporation as of November 28, 1936, under the name of THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, with the powers, rights and privileges and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the Great Seal of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this twenty-third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-six.

F. W. COOK

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

[Seal]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Chapter 126—Laws of 1937

An Act authorizing THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, to hold additional real and personal estate.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, a charitable institution organized under the general laws relating to charitable corporations to carry out the charitable provisions contained in the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, may hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding twelve million dollars notwithstanding the limitation provided by section nine of chapter one hundred and eighty of the General Laws, which estate shall be devoted to the purposes of said institution as provided in said section nine.

Approved March 23, 1937.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PROBATE COURT

SUFFOLK, SS.

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, of Boston, Suffolk County, a Massachusetts Corporation, is appointed trustee of certain estate given in trust as a Museum for the education and enjoyment of the public forever under the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, late of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, deceased, testate, which will was proved and allowed on the twenty-first day of August A.D. 1924, by said Court, and is now of record in this Court, to act in place of William C. Endicott, deceased, Grafton D. Cushing, Olga E. Monks, Richard C. Paine, T. Jefferson Coolidge, Arthur Pope and Francis L. Higginson (resigned).

And you are required to make and return to said Probate Court, within three months from the date hereof, a true inventory of all real and personal estate belonging to it as trustee, which at the time of the making of such inventory shall have come to its possession or knowledge;

To manage and dispose of all such estate, and faithfully to discharge its trust in relation thereto, according to law and the will of said testatrix;

To render, upon oath, a true account of the property in its hands, and of the management and disposition thereof, at least once a year until its trust is fulfilled, unless excused therefrom in any year by said Court; and

At the expiration of its trust, to settle its account in said Court, and pay over and deliver all the estate and effects remaining in its hands, or due from it on such settlement, to the person or persons entitled thereto.

Witness, William M. Prest, Esquire, Judge of said Court, at Boston, this 24th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-six.

ARTHUR W. SULLIVAN, *Register*.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Acts of the Year 1943

Chapter 279

An Act to Exempt from Taxation the Real Estate in Boston of THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, Trustee under the Will of Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The real estate, hereinafter described, located in the city of Boston and held by THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED, as trustee under the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, shall be exempt from taxation beginning January first, nineteen hundred and forty-three, and continuing so long as the museum, known as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is operated by said corporation for the education and enjoyment of the public. Said real estate includes the building housing said museum and is bounded northwesterly by Worthington street; northeasterly by the Fenway; southeasterly by Evans Way; southwesterly by land now or formerly of Carol H. Powers et al., one hundred and twenty-one hundredths feet; and northwesterly thirty-two and sixty-nine hundredths feet and southwesterly eighty-four and eighty-nine hundredths feet by land now or formerly of Harold J. Coolidge et al., Trustees; containing about sixty-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four square feet.

Approved May 14, 1943.

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

The officers of this corporation shall consist of a board of seven Trustees, a presiding officer to be known as the President of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, a Vice-President of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, a financial officer to be known as the Treasurer of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, and a recording officer to be known as the Secretary of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II

The Trustees shall have the right to resign, and upon the death or resignation of any of them the remainder shall have the right to fill the vacancy or vacancies by the election of a new member or members.

ARTICLE III

The Trustees shall have general control of the property of the corporation and shall have power to appoint from time to time such agents as they may deem necessary for the appropriate conduct of the affairs of the corporation, subject to the provisions of the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner.

ARTICLE IV

The Trustees shall, at the annual meeting, choose from their number a President of the Corporation to hold office until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE V

The Trustees shall, at the annual meeting, choose from their number a Vice-President of the Corporation, to hold office until the next annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside at meetings of the Trustees in the absence of the President. The Vice-President may also hold the office of Treasurer or Secretary if thereto elected.

ARTICLE VI

The Trustees shall, at the annual meeting, choose from their number, a Treasurer of the Corporation, to hold office until the next annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep the financial records of the Corporation and report thereon to the Trustees. The Treasurer may also hold the office of Secretary if thereto elected.

ARTICLE VII

The Trustees shall, at the annual meeting, choose from their number a Secretary of the Corporation to hold office until the next annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the meetings of the Trustees and to give the requisite notice thereof.

ARTICLE VIII

A vacancy occurring in any of the offices of the Corporation may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Trustees, the officer so elected to hold office until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX

The Trustees shall have power to act on all questions by a majority of their number. The Trustees shall have the right to put any securities in the names of two or more of

their number, either individually or as Trustees of this Corporation, and the Trustees so named, or their survivors or survivor, shall have power to assign and transfer such securities, and to execute powers of attorney, proxies to vote, dividend orders, subscriptions and other instruments relating to such securities. No Trustee shall be liable for retaining bonds or securities unregistered, for leaving securities in the possession or control of any other of the Trustees, for any error of judgment, or for anything except his own wilful personal default.

ARTICLE X

An annual meeting of the Trustees shall be held at Boston on the second Monday of February in each year. Special meetings may be held at any time, either in Boston or elsewhere in the Commonwealth, upon the request of any of the Trustees. The Secretary shall give notice thereof to each Trustee, either personally or by mail, at least three days prior to the time of such meeting, or said notice may be given by the President, but any meeting of the Trustees at any place at which all shall be present shall be valid without any previous notice thereof.

ARTICLE XI

A notice of any meeting of the Trustees, mailed to addresses furnished by them, shall be sufficient notice.

ARTICLE XII

The seal of the corporation shall consist of a circular impression bearing the corporate name and the year of incorporation and a design representing a phoenix surmounted by a helmet with the motto *C'est mon plaisir*.

ARTICLE XIII

The By-Laws may be amended in any manner not incompatible with the due administration of the trusts set up in the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, at any regular or special meeting, provided that notice of such intended amendment shall be given in the call for the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT



TO THE TRUSTEES:

This past year marked for the first time a change in the management of the Museum. From the time when the Trustees took possession under the terms of Mrs. Gardner's will at her death in 1924, until December 31, 1954, the management of the Museum had been under Mr. Morris Carter. The following day, January 1, 1955, Mr. George L. Stout stepped in as the active resident Director. Thanks to Mr. Carter's careful and thoughtful preparation and Mr. Stout's intelligent and understanding reception of the transfer, the transition was made without the slightest hitch or loss of step, for which full credit and gratitude must be accorded to both.

The repair work on the floor of the Long Gallery and the ceiling of the Short Gallery was completed; also other items of maintenance as mentioned in the Director's report. Extensive changes were made, both in structural arrangement and equipment, in the Director's private apartment on the fourth floor, which have modernized and greatly improved the operation of the apartment.

Attendance fell off this year, both for weekdays and Sundays, though it remained above the average for the last five years but below that for ten years. The detailed figures appear in the Director's report.

The income of the Museum from General Funds showed an increase of \$37,392.20, compared with the previous year. There was no substantial change in receipts from sales and teas compared with last year.

The total expenses increased \$20,169.09, leaving a net balance of income over expenses of \$89,836.91, an increase

of \$17,223.11 compared with last year. The increase in expenses was due to the alterations, long overdue, that were made in the Director's apartment on the fourth floor. The final result after transferring the customary \$10,000 to our own Pension Fund, was a surplus for the year of \$79,836.91, leaving the final net increase over last year the same as above.

As the year 1954 completed one of the five-year periods, it became the duty of the Trustees, as required by Mrs. Gardner's will, to consider the matter of a distribution from the surplus accumulated during these five years to the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Lying-In Hospital. After careful consideration and discussion of the Museum's Pension Fund and of immediate and probable future repairs, renovations and improvements, and general world conditions, it was voted to donate \$100,000, of which \$65,000 was given to the Massachusetts General Hospital and \$35,000 to the Boston Lying-In Hospital.

It gave the Trustees much pleasure to appoint Mr. Morris Carter as Director Emeritus of the Museum.

The appreciative thanks of all of the Trustees go to the entire staff at the Museum, the greenhouse and the office for their loyalty and coöperation in this year of change.

F. L. HIGGINSON,
President

February 13, 1956

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR



TO THE TRUSTEES:

One who has occupied this office for a year has found around him evidence of the capability and devotion of his predecessor. That first administration under the will of the founder lasted thirty years. Its accomplishment is beyond appraisal here but a few slight indications of its measure more than deserve notice. All known and accredited means have been taken to preserve the collection and to keep the housing firm. The objects have been studied with exacting scholarship and the consequence of that study was a set of records filled with information and opinion and a series of publications which set forth the essence of the findings. Photographs of most objects have been made and a quantity of printed reproductions of them. The gardens around the main building have been developed and enlarged. Programs of music have been settled into a rich regularity. Techniques of management have been evolved. A staff engaged to satisfy the needs of the Museum and its visitors has been cultivated in its duties and fostered in its loyalty. The distinguishing character and attractiveness of the whole establishment has been retained. All this has been done with economy and, in the process, a renowned private collection has become, as was intended, an agency for the benefit of the public.

Against this large achievement the events of the year past look relatively small in scale. Visitors have been offered much the same opportunities as in other recent years for enjoyment and study. Programs of music arranged under the experienced direction of Mr. Mason have been presented in a total number of 189. Those on weekdays num-

bered 142 and were the performances of 30 singers, 27 pianists, 7 violinists, 1 cellist, 2 flutists, 1 clarinetist, 1 oboist, 1 trio (stringed instruments), and 1 glee club. Sunday concerts numbered 47, the performances of 11 singers, 17 pianists, 10 violinists, 1 flutist, 5 string quartets, 1 wind quintet, 1 string trio, 2 duos, and 1 chorus.

The court and, in favorable weather, the outside garden have attracted many. In spite of exceptional heat in the summer and of some flood damage, the greenhouse has brought out a succession of flowering plants in rare quality and condition. For his participation in the Chrysanthemum Show, Mr. Sullivan and his associates were awarded a prize by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Towards the end of the year, a need for parking space to take employees' motor vehicles became apparent. A firm of landscape and site designers made a survey of the outside gardens in November with the aim of suggesting ways to provide space for that purpose.

Insistent demands of conservation in the collection are being met by efforts to reduce those forces causing damage and to repair such damage as was not prevented. Repairs and treatment to lessen the inroads of decay were carried out by Mr. Jakstas or under his expert direction on 120 objects. These were of many kinds: paintings (6), drawings and prints (6), wood carvings (17), stone sculptures (4), metal work (65), furniture, ceramics, and other objects (22). In addition Mrs. Romano worked on 67 textiles. The state of the building has a strong influence on the states of the objects in it. Improvement in its weather tightness is being continued, particularly at windows and doors, to mitigate the invasion of air-borne grime and gas. Structural support was added under the floor of the Long Gallery at the north end. This required an opening in the ceiling of the Short

Gallery below it and repairs there are still going on. Other and minor alterations have been made on the advice of a representative of the Fire Prevention Division of the Fire Department, and still others to counteract drainage defects disclosed by flooding in August. A general renovation was completed in the kitchen and service area of the apartment on the fourth floor. Early arrival of cold weather in the autumn forced attention to the sharp drop in relative humidity in exhibition rooms. Various means of introducing moisture were tried and although results are not yet satisfactory there is a marked improvement.

General attendance of visitors at the Museum has fallen about 6½ per cent below that of the preceding year. This decline may be incidental. Some part of it can be attributed to weather which has shown a perverse inclination on open days. Perhaps, also, it reflects a change in the social pattern. The recorded figures are:

Weekdays	48,030	decrease from previous year	2,568
Sundays	<u>37,845</u>		<u>3,531</u>
	85,875		6,099

Although no particular count has been kept of them, a large number of student visitors has been noticed in addition to class groups, and there was a large number of professional visitors from around the world. Following is a summary of the group attendance:

Boston public schools	10 groups; persons	350
Public schools outside Boston	36	1323
Private schools	19	444
Colleges	34	1057
Miscellaneous organizations	68	2346
Special openings	<u>5</u>	<u>1084</u>
	172	6604

These groups that visited the Museum to attend special events are included with the attendance record. The largest of them during the year came to a reception and song recital by Roland Hayes on the evening of 14 April, under the auspices of the South End Music School. Other large gatherings were those of wives of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers on 21 June and of the American Anaesthesia Society on 31 October. Regular, weekday guidance has served 1,105 visitors. For special groups there have been 125 guided tours accommodating 4,371 persons. Teas were provided for 21 groups comprising 1,175 persons.

The Museum was the subject of a television program, 13 July, given by station WGBH-TV (Channel 2).

Sales of various publications have been as follows:

Reproductions of Paintings (Pope and Hatch)	19
Catalogue of Exhibited Paintings and Drawings (Hendy)	47
Isabella Stewart Gardner & Fenway Court (Carter)	97
General Catalogue (Longstreet)	34
Gardner Collection (Carter)	120
Museum Guides	4,054
Photographs	620
Color Prints	2,893
Post cards	40,396
Greeting Cards	2,671

Total Receipts

Sales of Publications		\$4,376.44
Reimbursement for costs of teas	\$1,279.65	
Reimbursement for costs of special openings	427.32	1,706.97
		<hr/> \$6,083.41

In accordance with a direction in the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, a memorial service was conducted in the chapel at the end of the Long Gallery on 14 April by the Society of St. John the Evangelist. The Reverend Father Superior Granville Mercer Williams, S.S.J.E., was the celebrant. He was assisted by three clergymen and a choir of ten voices. Others in attendance numbered seventeen.

With sorrow I report that the staff has lost by death two of its members in the past year: George H. Lamont, guard, on 23 March, and Donald Matheson, guard, on 26 May. Charles F. Hathaway, guard, resigned on 31 July. Bessie B. Sabeau, who had retired 31 July 1953, died on 14 January 1955.

In closing the summary of the year's works and services I wish to offer my thanks to the Trustees and to the Museum Staff for the patience and the friendliness they have shown me during this time. Any change is bothersome and a person new in an office may make many blunders. Mine were taken with toleration and good humor. I have learned much through this year's association and look forward to greater learnings in this cordial climate.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. STOUT,
Director

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



*To The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated,
Trustee under the Will of Isabella Stewart Gardner:*

We have examined the statement of assets and fund balances of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, Trustee under the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, as of December 31, 1955 and the related statements of changes in fund balances and income received, expenditures and appropriations for the year then ended. In accordance with the generally accepted practice of nonprofit organizations, the accounting records are maintained generally on a cash basis and include no receivables, accruals or prepayments of items of expense and income, except in respect of United States Savings Bonds purchased on a discount basis, on which interest has been accrued to the extent of the increment in the redemption value. Our examination of such statements was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements, with the notes thereto, present fairly, on the basis indicated which is consistent with that of the preceding year, the recorded assets and fund balances of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Incorporated, Trustee, as of December 31, 1955 and the changes in fund balances and income received, expenditures and appropriations for the year.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & Co.

Boston

January 26, 1956

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED
TRUSTEE UNDER THE WILL OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES
DECEMBER 31, 1955

ASSETS

General Fund:

Investments (Note A):

Bonds (approximate market value—
\$1,622,000)

\$1,625,860.40

Capital stocks (approximate market value—
\$7,149,000)

2,975,316.23

\$4,601,176.63

Cash

1,025.29

\$ 4,602,201.92

Fixed assets, at appraised values (Note B):

Museum land and buildings

\$ 366,400.00

5,000 shares of The Isabella Stewart Gard-
ner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated,
representing:

Contents of Museum building

\$4,015,000.00

Lot and greenhouse

49,000.00

\$4,064,000.00

4,430,400.00

\$ 9,032,601.92

Pension Fund:

Cash

\$ 55,134.66

Bonds, at cost (approximate market value—
\$435,000)

440,971.88

Capital stocks, at cost (approximate market
value—\$55,000)

55,134.55

Accrued interest on United States Savings

Bonds, Series F

2,940.00

554,181.09

Current Working Assets:

Cash

\$ 91,244.26

Investment of current funds:

Bonds, at cost (approximate market value—
\$331,000)

326,962.50

Capital stocks, at cost (approximate market
value—\$4,000)

3,911.37

422,118.13

\$10,008,901.14

FUND BALANCES

General Fund

\$ 9,032,601.92

Pension Fund

554,181.09

Current Working Funds:

Maintenance and depreciation

\$ 330,555.47

Amortization of bond premiums

19,876.45

Current surplus account

71,686.21

422,118.13

\$10,008,901.14

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED
TRUSTEE UNDER THE WILL OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

	Current working funds			
	General Fund	Pension Fund	Maintenance and depreciation	Amortization of bond premiums — Current surplus account
Balances, December 31, 1954				\$316,793.78
Additions (deductions):				
Appropriations from current surplus balance at December 31, 1954 (Note D):				
For pension fund		200,000.00		(200,000.00)
For current working fund for maintenance and depreciation			16,793.78	(16,793.78)
For contribution to two Boston hospitals				(100,000.00)
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations, per accompanying statement				71,686.21
Net gain (loss) from sales of securities (Note A)				
Income from investments of pension fund	36,509.09	2,081.87	(1,878.51)	
Appropriation from income for pension fund		10,520.59		
Pensions paid		10,000.00		
Amortization of bond premiums		(14,900.00)		4,550.70
Accumulated amortization applicable to bonds sold—transferred to general fund				(8.50)
Balances, December 31, 1955	\$9,032,601.92	\$554,181.09	\$330,555.47	\$ 71,686.21

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED
TRUSTEE UNDER THE WILL OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER

STATEMENT OF INCOME RECEIVED, EXPENDITURES
AND APPROPRIATIONS

	<i>Year ended December 31,</i>	
	1955	1954
<i>Income received:</i>		
Income from investments (not including income on Pension Fund investments):		
Dividends on capital stocks	\$275,249.89	\$238,777.58
Interest on bonds	52,799.10	55,281.23
Sales of catalogues, post cards, etc. at Museum	4,376.98	4,574.96
	<u>\$332,425.97</u>	<u>\$298,633.77</u>
<i>Expenditures:</i>		
Museum operating expenses:		
Guards and watchmen	\$ 35,463.53	\$ 35,089.18
Plants and flowers	30,204.79	33,367.69
Music	16,605.62	15,894.80
Care of collection and paintings	12,090.98	14,509.75
Maintenance, including charges for extraordinary repairs and replacements	80,285.37	50,211.09
Administrative salaries and expenses	34,101.92	35,240.49
Sundry operating expenses	4,102.83	7,402.13
Insurance	9,107.01	5,300.36
Compensation of managing trustees	7,000.00	7,000.00
Fiduciary Trust Company—agent	6,000.00	6,000.00
Trustees' fees	680.00	820.00
Treasurer's office expenses	4,422.94	5,101.24
Legal and accounting services	2,733.50	1,600.00
Miscellaneous general and administrative expenses	1,103.40	658.10
Social security taxes	2,287.17	2,136.52
Cost of printing post cards, etc. for sale at Museum		5,688.62
	<u>\$246,189.06</u>	<u>\$226,019.97</u>
Excess of income over expenditures	<u>\$ 86,236.91</u>	<u>\$ 72,613.80</u>
Appropriation for Pension Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Amortization of bond premiums (in 1954, after return to income of accumulated amortization provided on bonds exchanged for capital stocks)	4,550.70	(2,135.25)
	<u>\$ 14,550.70</u>	<u>\$ 7,864.75</u>
Excess of income received over expenditures and appropriations from income	<u>\$ 71,686.21</u>	<u>\$ 64,749.05</u>

THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, INCORPORATED
TRUSTEE UNDER THE WILL OF ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note A—Securities:

Securities held in the general fund are stated at cost if acquired subsequent to December 24, 1936, or at market values shown in the Trustee's inventory as of that date. All other securities are valued at cost. Gains and losses from sales of securities have been determined on the basis of these values.

Note B—Fixed Assets:

The Museum land and buildings, together with the 5,000 shares of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the Fenway, Incorporated (representing the contents of the Museum building, lot and greenhouse), are stated at appraised values as shown in the Trustee's inventory as of December 24, 1936.

Note C—Uninvested Funds:

Cash balances include the following amounts of uninvested funds held by or in transit to Fiduciary Trust Company:

General fund investment	\$1,025.29
Pension fund	186.81
Current working assets	<u>3,592.97</u>
	<u>\$4,805.07</u>

Note D—Distributions from Current Surplus:

Under the terms of the will of Isabella Stewart Gardner, accumulations of unexpended surplus funds which, in the opinion of the Trustees, will not be required for the purposes of the Museum, shall be distributed to the Boston Lying-In Hospital and the Massachusetts General Hospital at the end of each successive five-year period. In 1955, after appropriations of \$200,000 for the pension fund and \$16,793.78 for the current working fund for maintenance and depreciation, the remaining balance of current surplus at December 31, 1954, \$100,000, was contributed to the two hospitals as distributions of the excess accumulation since January 1, 1949.





*Fifty copies of this book were printed for THE
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